

Each of these opportunities for upward economic and social mobility are available in few other countries outside the United States. Therefore, maintaining equal access to these opportunities is a vital part of preserving the very principles that make this country unique and will prove to be an effective way to eliminate gaps in income, wealth and educational attainment within this country that are too often defined along the lines of race or socioeconomic status.

The Opportunity Compact serves as a vehicle to develop a serious plan of action to address the persistent inequalities faced by those in urban communities. Yet, all Americans, regardless of place of residence or racial identity, can benefit from the policy recommendations presented in this blueprint for economic equality. Furthermore, there is a role for all parties to play—private citizens, national, state and local governments, community-based service providers and the business community—as together, we seek to strengthen our Nation by maximizing the potential of all its citizens. By generating new ideas, initiating productive partnerships and fostering collaboration, The Opportunity Compact seeks to expand access to the incentives and rewards that act as the driving force behind what makes this country great—personal responsibility, initiative and hard work.

Madam Speaker, I firmly believe that the proposals embodied in the National Urban League's Opportunity Compact provide a powerful framework for approaching the difficult challenges faced by America's cities. I therefore rise today to congratulate the National Urban League for its work on behalf of cities and for bringing The Opportunity Compact to the attention of Congress.

TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA J. KURTZ

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cynthia J. Kurtz, who recently retired from her post as City Manager of Pasadena, California. Ms. Kurtz served the City for over 20 years, spending the last 10 years as the chief administrative officer of Pasadena's diverse community of 144,000 residents and has left a legacy that will be enjoyed by generations to come.

In her capacity as city manager, Cynthia was responsible for over 2,300 employees with an operating budget of over \$550 million. With a keen vision for the "big picture" and a wealth of experience to draw upon, she was the driving force behind some of the most important projects in the city's history.

Cynthia came to Pasadena after 10 years of employment with the city of Portland, Oregon, where she held a variety of positions in the Office of Transportation and the Bureau of Economic Development. That experience served Pasadena well when she was hired as the City's Capital Program Administrator in 1987. In 1991, she became director of public works for the City of Pasadena where she shepherded high profile projects such as the delicate \$24 million reconstruction of the historic Colorado Street Bridge.

During my years in the California State Senate, I worked with Cynthia on the planning for

a light rail line from Los Angeles to Pasadena, and her contributions to that project were vital to its success. Completed on time and under budget, the Gold Line light rail project has been an invaluable asset to the San Gabriel Valley, and especially to Pasadena.

The Pasadena City Council was well aware of Cynthia's hard work on their behalf, and when the position of city manager became open in 1998, she was the first woman to be appointed to that post. As city manager, she first concentrated on solidifying budget procedures while also attending to the quality of life issues that make Pasadena a special place to live and work.

Ms. Kurtz's most recent landmark achievement was last year's completion of a \$118 million renovation of historic Pasadena City Hall. When the structure was determined to be seismically vulnerable, she worked with her staff to create a plan that would safeguard Pasadena employees while also preserving this most recognizable jewel of the "Crown City." The project was completed ahead of schedule and continues to stand as a testament to Pasadena's rich architectural heritage.

Cynthia Kurtz has been an invaluable asset to the city of Pasadena, and I ask all Members to join me in thanking Cynthia J. Kurtz for over 2 decades of dedicated service.

HONORING THE EASTERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Eastern Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce on achieving an important milestone, its 75th anniversary. Since 1933, the Eastern Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce has tirelessly promoted its members and the economic health of our community. I am honored to represent this organization in Congress.

In 1933, the Jenkintown Businessmen's Association was incorporated with just 44 members. Since that time, the chamber has changed its name a number of times to mark its growth within the business community. In 1961, the organization became the Jenkintown Chamber of Commerce. By 1968, the organization became known as the Greater Jenkintown Chamber of Commerce to reflect the expansion of its service area. In 1992, the chamber became the Eastern Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce.

While successfully fulfilling its mission to support and promote local businesses of all sizes, the chamber has also successfully established strong community ties. The chamber has partnered with area businesses to host the annual Best of the Burbs celebration of business cultural and community events, featuring the chamber's annual Business Expo, which showcases over 100 area businesses. In 2003, the chamber established Leadership Montgomery County, an innovative program dedicated to strengthening the personal and professional skills of our community's future leaders.

The chamber's active board of directors and committed staff implement outreach, advocacy

and fundraising activities to strengthen the chamber's enduring presence in the community. Over the past 75 years, the Eastern Montgomery Chamber of Commerce has served as a powerful catalyst, uniting businesses, community agencies, government officials, and educational institutions to make our community a great place to live and work.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the Eastern Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce's 75th anniversary milestone and wishing the chamber and its members many more years of community enrichment and service.

TRIBUTE TO MONSIGNOR WILLIAM J. LINDER

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to acknowledge the lifetime service of Monsignor William J. Linder, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newark, New Jersey and founder of the New Community Corporation.

Monsignor Linder has served in the Catholic priesthood for more than 44 years, spending the entire length of his ministry in Newark, New Jersey. For the past 31 years he has been the pastor of St. Rose of Lima parish, a multi-ethnic and multi-racial congregation with representation from 42 nations around the world.

The New Community Corporation celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. Its history is filled with stories of service to the city of Newark. The New Community Corporation is the most comprehensive and largest community development organization in the United States, employing over 1600 individuals and providing urban dwellers with housing, day care, alternative education, social services, job training, employment services and health care.

Monsignor Linder has received many honors and awards including the HUD Distinguished Service Award, The National Association of Home Builders Housing Hall of Fame award, the Aetna Foundation Voice of Conscience Award, the MacArthur Foundation Fellows Award and the Governor's Gold Medal (NJ). He was also selected by President Clinton to attend the president's first inauguration as one of the 60 "Faces of Hope" and by President Bush to participate in a conference on faith-based initiatives.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in honoring a wonderful servant to humanity. I am pleased to recognize his tremendous contributions to the city of Newark and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

IN TRIBUTE TO LOUVENIA JOHNSON

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a woman of faith,